

REMARKS

Specification. The Examiner finds fault with the Specification, invoking Rule 77, which lists section headings which “should” be provided in a patent specification. The Examiner requires that a heading be provided for the description of the drawing.

It is noted that Rule 77 does not say “must”. As such, it is suggested that it is inappropriate to “require” (Office Action page 2, paragraph 2) that such a heading be added.

In any event, it is respectfully pointed out that the specification as filed did contain, and does now contain, just such a section heading. This may be seen in the specification at page 2, between filed paragraphs 5 and 6. The Examiner is also respectfully requested to note that this application was published on July 27, 2006 as US 2006-0165955 A1 and that this publication clearly shows the “drawings” section heading at page 1 between published paragraphs 0005 and 0006.

It is requested that the Examiner withdraw this requirement.

Claim objection as to claims 2, 4 and 12. The Examiner expresses the view that each of claims 2, 4, and 12 supposedly fails to further limit the claim from which it depends. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 2 and 12 have been amended.

Claim objection as to claim 8. The Examiner suggests that claim 8 contains a typographical error. The undersigned is grateful to the Examiner for taking the time to identify this error. The error has been corrected.

Claim objection as to claim 9. The Examiner suggests that claim 9 contains a typographical error. The undersigned is grateful to the Examiner for taking the time to identify this error. The error has been corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 5 112 – claims 2, 4, and 12-14.

Claims 2, 12, and 13 have been amended as discussed above. Claim 4 has been canceled.

The amended language of claims 2 and 12 is illustrated for example in Fig. 8a, b. Here points of introduction of external force are at the loads L1 - L4, which act on:

Loads L1, L2 act on the axle holders 59a, 59b, Load L3 on the lock 58 and load L4 on the belt roller 60.

These points of introduction of external force are formed by shapes of the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material. 6 and/or by shapes of the continuous fiber-profiles 10 (claim 2).

And the continuous fiber-profiles 10.1 - 10.4 are extending between these points of introduction of external force L1 - L4:

The continuous fiber-profiles 10.1, 10.4, extending from L1 to L4

and the continuous fiber-profiles 10.2, 10.3 extending from L2 to L3.

The amended language of claim 13 is clearly defined by the new limitation “and wherein the tensile- and compressive force zones are thicker than the thrust zone.” This is shown in Fig. 7a, b.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by Reference Kagi (US 6,821,613).

New claim 1 with the features a - f denoted is amended as follows:

a- A structural component made of long-fiber reinforced thermoplastic material with integrated continuous fiber-reinforcements. the component comprising:

b - at least three separate, individually integrated, shaped continuous-fiber-profiles,

c - the at least three continuous-fiber-profiles extending into different directions and running together at a location,

d - the at least three continuous-fiber-profiles, at the location where they run together, defining a three-dimensionally developed intersection point,

e - wherein at the intersection point at least a first continuous-fiber-profile lies in an upper plane of the intersection point, at least a second continuous-fiber-profile lies a lower plane of the intersection point, and wherein at least a third continuous-fiber-profile with a vertical extension extends continuously between the first and second continuous-fiber-profiles;

f - wherein the continuous-fiber-profiles are joined together by the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material at the intersection point.

This is explained and shown for example in Fig. 8a, b with separate continuous-fiber-profiles 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 which extend into different directions (from L2 to L3 and from L1 to L4) and which run together forming the three-dimensionally developed (spatial) intersection point 50 according to the features b, c, d, e, f.

Reference Kagi (US 6,821,613). It may be helpful to discuss reference Kagi in some detail.

The cited Reference Kagi ('613) does not disclose nor indicate nor show in any figure such a structure as is claimed. The reference Kagi ('613) discloses an entirely different structural component where continuous-fiber strands are interconnected and have flat internal connecting areas (7) between two continuous-fiber strands (3.1,3.2). All these connecting areas (7) are flat. Nowhere in Kagi does one see at least three separate continuous-fiber-profiles that are extending into different directions and running together at a location defining a three-dimensionally developed intersection point (50) with features e and f according to the claimed invention.

Specifically the cited Fig. 8 and Fig. 24c of the reference each only show one single profile, consequently extending into only one direction and without such a three-dimensionally developed intersection point (50).

Fig. 8 shows one profile 26 which consists of three interconnected continuous-fiber strands 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 which are fused together and which form one single U-shaped profile, extending into one direction.

Fig. 24c shows one U-shaped profile which is composed of two continuous-fiber strands 3.1, 3.2 which are fused together at the connecting area 7 and which form one three-dimensional U-shaped Profile 25 extending into one direction (along the profile 25).

Here in Kagi also there is no three-dimensionally developed intersection point (50) defined by at least three separate continuous-fiber-profiles extending in different directions according to features b, c, d, e, f.

Also in all further figures of Kagi ('613) there is no indication to the structural component according to the invention with all features b, c, d, e, f.

It is suggested that by reason of the foregoing, claim 1 is allowable. As such, the depending claims 2-3, and 5-19 should likewise be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Carl Oppedahl
PTO Reg. No. 32746
telephone 970 468 8600